

### Transitions Exercise

**Introduction:** Chapter 8 of *They Say, I Say*, “As a Result: Connecting the Parts,” is the best I’ve encountered in explaining the importance of transitions in your writing. The main goal of the chapter is to show how to “establish clear relations between one statement and the next by connecting those statements” (107), and it offers strategies for how to do so on p. 108: using transition terms, pointing words, developing key terms and phrases, and repeating yourself, but with a difference. Perhaps the best advice the chapter gives is on how to think of your sentences as you construct them: instead of each sentence starting a new thought, it should grow out of or extend the thought of the previous sentence (see Figure 6 on p. 107).

**Exercise:** These excerpts from essay 2 drafts are in one way or another lacking connective terms or phrases that make the move from one sentence (or paragraph) to the next clear to the reader. Using the strategies for making connections in your writing on p. 108, add connections between these sentences where they are missing.

- 1) Food Inc. really begins to show the shocking truths about the food industry when it first shows the model of a regular chicken growing verse a genetically altered chicken that grows twice as fast and in half the time. “People like to eat white meat, so they redesigned the chicken to have large breasts.”

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- 2) ...Perdue, Morison’s employer, asked her to convert her well-lit houses into a dark room so that the chickens can be more venerable. Standing up for what she believed, she said no, but unfortunately she was fired for her answer. This interview was very beneficial to the movie because it shows that even the farmers disapprove with the way the farming and producing system has changed.

Pick one: Spend Seventy-Five cents for a can of coke or two dollars on a stem of vegetables? Joel Salatin, owner of Polyface Farms does things the traditional way. Therefore, it is hard for him to comprehend how someone could say “No” to buying two dollars’ worth of vegetables when they are spending a dollar on a soda.

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- 3) The creators also included pathos in the argument dealing with Moe Parr when they showed him running out of money because of legal fees and could no longer run his farm. This causes the audience to be sympathetic towards the farmer and to feel resentment towards Monsanto. In a way, it makes the audience angry with Monsanto and I think this is exactly what the producers of Food, Inc wanted to come out of this argument. This argument is trying to persuade the audience by using real people and real situations to show the corruption in the food industry.

Kevin was a victim of e-coli due to eating contaminated meat. He and his family were on vacation when Kevin ate a hamburger that was contaminated. He was hospitalized for sometime, but unfortunately passed away. This part of Food, Inc. tries to persuade the audience by the use of pathos. Pathos deals with your emotions and values, and the death of a young child brings out emotions in everyone. I don’t think anyone could honestly say that they are not taken back by the death of a young boy. This was a great example used by the producers because many people feel strongly about this type of issue. In this case, the death could have been prevented if the meat was recalled and not eaten by Kevin. This argument might be more effective towards women. I point this out because it is coming from a mother’s perspective about her son that passed away. The audience might respond even more to this argument if they had a son of their own.

**Follow-up assignment:** For peer review in class today, use a highlight to show your peers’ use of the various strategies for making transitions between paragraphs and sentences (remember, they are 1) transition terms, 2) pointing words, 3) developing key terms and phrases, and 4) repeating yourself, but with a difference). Point out where transitions are missing and suggest how the writer might connect sentences/paragraphs more clearly.